

MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Thursday, January 18, 2007 - 2:00 a.m.  
Room W125, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

Members Present: Sen. Allen Christensen, Committee Co-Chair  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold, Committee Co-Chair  
Sen. Chris Buttars  
Sen. Peter Knudson  
Sen. Ross Romero  
Rep. David Litvack  
Rep. Roz McGee  
Rep. Paul Neuenschwander  
Rep. Steve Urquhart  
Rep. Paul Ray  
Rep. Ken Sumsion

Staff Present: William Greer, Fiscal Analyst  
Debbie Headden, Fiscal Analyst  
Norda Shepard, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Mark Ward, Deputy Director, Division of Human Services  
Dr. David N. Sundwall, Executive Director, Department of Health  
Dr. George Delavan, Dir., Division of Community and Family Health Services  
Dr. Todd C. Grey, State Medical Examiner  
Dr. Marc Babitz, Director, Division of Health Systems Improvement  
Teresa Garrett, Director, Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Christensen at 2:25 p.m.

**1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Co-Chair Newbold moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007, and January 17, 2007. The motion passed unanimously with Sens. Buttars and Knudson, and Reps. Neuenschwander, Urquhart and Ray absent at the time of the vote.

**2. Approval of Base Budgets for Department of Health and Human Services**

Fiscal Analyst William Greer explained the base budget for the Department of Health, which is found under Tab 4 of the Budget Analysis Book. Rep. McGee requested a breakdown of the Governor's recommended budget to compare. Analyst Greer explained the Governor's estimates are made in September so there could be some changes since that time in estimated available revenues. The base budget for the Department of Health is \$1,821,797,400. He said the base budget is written into H.B. 1, which contains all base budgets of all state agencies and explained that approval of the base budget is a starting point and adjustments or additions can be made.

**MOTION:** Sen. Romero moved to approve the base budget of \$1,821,797,400 for the Department of Health.

**SUBSTITUTE-MOTION:** Sen. Buttars moved to postpone action on base budgets.

Sen. Buttars explained his position that with such a large appropriation more discussion should be held on the various base budget line items before a vote is taken.

The substitute-motion failed with Sens. Buttars and Knudson voting in favor and Reps. Neuenschwander, Urquhart and

Ray absent at the time of the vote.

The original motion passed with Sens. Buttars and Knudson voting in opposition and Reps. Neuenswander, Urquhart and Ray absent at the time of the vote.

Analyst Debbie Headden explained the base budget for the Department of Human Services, found under Tab 19 of the Budget Analyst. The base budget is \$539,779,700, with \$254,085,100 from General Funds.

**MOTION:** Sen. Romero moved to approve the base budget of \$539,779,700 for the Department of Human Services.

The motion passed with Sens. Buttars and Knudson voting in opposition and Reps. Urquhart and Ray absent at the time of the vote.

Analyst Headden explained that the Department of Human Services operates two internal service funds, found under Tab 29, that provide services to the Department, General Services and Data Processing. Mark Ward, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services, explained that the General Services Funds covers building maintenance and rent for the Department's main office and the Data Processing is for programming services mostly for the Division of Child and Family Services and the Office of Recovery Systems.

**MOTION:** Rep. Neuenswander moved to approve the Internal Service Funds for the Department of Human Services of \$4,703,500.

The motion passed with Sens. Buttars and Knudson voting in opposition and Reps. Urquhart and Ray absent at the time of the vote.

Analyst Greer distributed a handout, "A Legislator's Guide to Using Performance Information," which he explained is a list of questions that can be used to help in when evaluating the budgets and programs review hearings.

### **3. Governor's Analyst Budget Request - Critical Issues**

Dan Schuring, Analyst from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, distributed a copy of the Governor's Recommendations for FY 2008 for the Department of Health. He drew attention to ongoing adjustments and indicated the Governor had made a discretionary salary increase a line item. In answer to subcommittee questions, he indicated the request to improve access to Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) would allow approximately 12,000 additional children to be covered. It was explained that the \$1 million for antiviral medication stockpile would be for a pandemic situation and would be used initially for first responders and providers.

### **4. Program and Budget Review**

Analyst Greer explained that even though Medicaid is a large part of the Health Department budget, public health issues are also very important and the subcommittee would be hearing from those divisions today.

Dr. David N. Sundwall said that fundamental public health programs impact all residents of the state regardless of status. He stated one of the Health Department's missions is to protect the public health and thereby save money by preventing more serious health problems. He said he would like to highlight some urgent needs, Vaccine Funding, Safety Net for Primary Care Clinics, and funding for the Utah Birth Defect Network. He indicated Utah has a higher number of birth defects than the national average. He distributed a handout concerning this.

Dr. George Delavan, Director, Division of Community and Family Health Services, explained that the basic program for the Birth Defect Network ended two years ago and they were able to continue until now, but they are requesting a supplement of \$173,000 for the current year and \$360,000 on-going funding for next year.

Analyst Greer discussed the issue brief on the Medical Examiner, found under Tab 5, Issue Brief 098-03. He recommends the subcommittee approve \$270,000 from General Fund for FY 2008. This is needed to cover additional personnel and body transportation costs. He explained that the Medical Examiners office does autopsies 7 days a week and the workload continues to increase due to increased requests of law enforcement. Medical supplies and body transportation costs have also steadily increased. Mr. Greer said this is a high priority recommendation.

Dr. Todd Grey, State Medical Examiner, explained that fuel costs are a major reason for the increase in transportation costs. He stated the main Salt Lake City office is the only one equipped to do adequate forensic examinations so many bodies need to be transported here from throughout the state. Also there is an increase of drug deaths resulting in more cases. In answer to subcommittee questions, he stated they do have a fee schedule but charges can only pass to local governments or the families of the deceased. He explained that their investigators help to gather critical information of suspicious deaths which saves time for the examiners. They have two full time investigators, with some part time help, and the requested building block would give them another full time investigator, which would also result in better training for the part time investigators.

Analyst Greer explained the Base Budget Adjustment found on Tab 5, Issue Brief 08-04, which transfers \$58,700 ongoing General Fund from epidemiology and Lab Services to the Executive Director's Operations. This is not new money and will help to meet basic needs without requesting an additional building block. He discussed Issue Brief 08-05, Tab 5, concerning Antiviral Medication Stockpile. He said this is in preparation for a pandemic influenza and is not for immunization but for treatment. He drew attention to the chart on the Issue Brief showing the distribution of courses to each state. He said this is an optional item for states, but is subsidized by the federal government.

Dr. Marc Babitz, Director, Division of Health Systems Improvements, stated there are few illnesses that threaten a large population but this request is to stockpile antiviral medication to prepare for a possible pandemic outbreak. He stated that the shelf life is estimated to be 90% effective at five years, but could be longer. He said he felt it is better to be prepared and have no need than to have a need and not be prepared.

Mr. Greer discussed the Issue Brief 08-06, Tab 5, on Patient Safety Initiative. The request is for \$77,400 ongoing General Fund. The Patient Safety Initiative is implemented to help identify causes of medical errors and improve health care in the state. This is a line item in Health Systems Improvement which is currently funding 1/2 FTE. This request will provide for this FTE to become full time. Dr. Babitz stated this is a cooperative effort with the Department of Health and private sectors working together to improve health systems. He said it is a partnership that needs cooperation of both to be effective.

Mr. Greer explained the Primary Care Grants program is requesting a Building Block of \$500,000 to provide additional Primary Care Grants. This is found under Tab 5, Issue Brief 08-07. Primary Care Grants are funded to public and nonprofit entities to help provide primary health care service to medically underserved populations throughout the state. A chart is included in the Issue Brief showing where grants were awarded in 2006-2007. Dr. Babitz explained that to be eligible for a grant the entity must demonstrate they serve medically underserved populations.

Mr. Greer indicated that the Workforce Financial Assistance Program is not requesting a building block. He explained this program is to increase the number of health care professionals: physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, mental health therapists, or other health care professionals, by providing educational loan repayment grants and scholarships to those willing to serve in these areas. Dr. Babitz said that every county in the state has areas of underserved populations.

Mr. Greer said the transfer of funding from in the Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services to Executive Director's has already been discussed and there are no other issues briefs in this division. Teresa Garrett, Director, Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, reported on the progress of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Committee and said it was about to wrap up. They have come up with 40 recommendations that will be sent in draft form to the Governor by the end of February. She said there is a web site available for those interested at

[pandemicflu.ut.gov](http://pandemicflu.ut.gov).

Analyst Greer discussed issue briefs in the Division of Community and Family Health Services . The Birth Defect Network is a state-wide surveillance system monitoring the occurrence of major structural birth defects in Utah. The Division is requesting a supplemental one-time funding of \$173,000 to continued the program uninterrupted and new funding of \$360,000 on-going. He stated they must maintain this system to continue to receive federal funds.

Dr. Delavan stated that Utah rates for birth defects are much higher than the national average. He said the network works with all hospital and birthing centers in the state to identify when a infant is born with a birth defect. The center is able to gather this information and enter it into the data base and monitor it from year to year. This information is given to the University for research purposes and used to try to education the public on ways to try to help prevent certain defects. He explained that the reason for many defects is not known and this data can help researchers find the cause and ways of prevention.

Mr. Greer discussed Issue Brief 08-09, Tab 5, on Early Intervention/Baby Watch, which is also in the Division of Community and Family Health Services. This program provides services in the home to children from birth to three years of age. There has been a steady increase in the number of children needing these services. There is a recommendation of \$1.6 million to maintain current case loads. Services are provided by private providers by contract through the state. There is a Building Block request of \$621,400 to provide rate increases to providers

Mr. Greer discussed Issue Brief -8-10, Tab 5, on Vaccine Funding. This funding is for immunization for a large population of young people who are under insured throughout the state. The request is for \$500,000 on-going for actual costs of the vaccines.

Co-Chair Christensen said the is light of the time, he would like these last two items, Baby Watch and Vaccine Funding, discussed more fully in another meeting.

##### **5. Other Committee Business**

Co-Chair Newbold stated the subcommittee would be covering divisions under Tab 2 and Tabs 12-15 on Monday and encouraged subcommittee members to read ahead and come prepared with any questions they make have.

**MOTION:** Sen. Romero moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson and Reps. Urquart and Sumsion absent at the time of the vote.

Co-Chair Christensen adjourned th meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes reported by Norda Shepard, Secretary

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Sen. Allen Christensen, Committee Co-Chair

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Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold, Committee Co-Chair